

BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2005

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, held at the Beach Art Center, 1515 Bay Palm Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, was called to order by President Don Taber at 9:05 A.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: (Voting = V; Alternate 1 = A1; and Alternate 2 = A2)

Belleair Beach	Mayor Rudy Davis (V)
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson (V)
Clearwater	Council Member Hoyt Hamilton
Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor Bill Ockunzzi (A1)
Indian Shores	Mayor Don Taber (V)
Madeira Beach	Vice Mayor John Wolbert (A1)
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen (V)
Redington Beach	Mayor Bob Fountaine (V)
Redington Shores	Mayor J. J. Beyrouti (V)
Treasure Island	Commissioner Richard Kraus (A1)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Martha J. Boos	Vice Mayor, City of Madeira Beach
Kristi Cheatham	Clearwater Gas
Marlene Clausen	Town of Indian Shores
Phil Collins	City of Treasurer Island
Lee Daniel	St. Petersburg/Clearwater Convention and Visitors Bureau
Nicole Elko	Pinellas County Environmental Management
Linda Fisher	Pinellas Planning Council
Nick Fritsch	Sand Key Civic Association
Joan Herndon	Vice Mayor, Town of Indian Shores
Dennis L. Jones	Senator, District 13
Mike Kelly	Belleair Beach resident
Barb Kirkpatrick	MOTE Marine Laboratory
Jerry Knight	Vice Mayor, Town of North Redington Beach
Joyce Kreger	Solutions to Avoid Red Tide (START)
Jim Lawrence	Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
Nancy Loehr	Progress Energy of Florida
Bob MacPherson	Tampa Bay Newspaper
Missy Pike	Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
Vince Robertello	St. Pete Post
Ed Ruttencutter	Commissioner, St. Pete Beach
Bill Smith	Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
Rob Stambaugh	St. Pete Beach Planning Committee
Art Thomas	Commissioner, City of Madeira Beach
Linda Wilson	Vice Mayor, Town of Redington Beach

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

President Taber added Appointment of a Nominee for the Tourist Development Council (TDC) to the Agenda under Old Business.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Council Member Hamilton to approve the Agenda as amended. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wolbert to approve the minutes of September 28, 2005. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

4. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer's Report for October 2005, was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Fontaine, with a balance on hand as of October 2005 being \$1,920.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wolbert to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

5. CORRESPONDENCE. None.

OLD BUSINESS.

6A. APPOINTMENT OF NOMINEE to the Tourist Development Council.

Mayor Beyrouti advised he will not be seeking re-election in March 2006. Therefore, since he represents the barrier islands on the Tourist Development Council (TDC), a new representative will need to be nominated to represent the barrier islands. He stated the representative should be an elected official from the 11 barrier island communities.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wolbert to nominate Mayor Bill Queen of North Redington Beach, with Mayor Queen accepting the nomination. Unanimous approval by acclamation, with Council Member Hamilton abstaining from voting, advising he currently serves as a member of the TDC.

NEW BUSINESS.

7A. PRESENTATION by Dr. Barb Kirkpatrick and Joyce Kreger, Executive Director, Solutions to Avoid Red Tide, Inc. (S.T.A.R.T.)

Joyce Kreger, representing Solutions to Avoid Red Tide, Inc. (S.T.A.R.T.), made a presentation on START, stating the organization began in 1996 following a lengthy red tide bloom. She stated START is a grass roots, non-profit Florida-based organization dedicated to funding and promoting efforts for the monitoring, control and mitigation of red tide in an environmentally responsible manner. The organization's strategic plan is as follows: (1) Continue monitoring research projects to ensure that they are effectively and efficiently completed on time; (2) Increase membership to allow for more funding and to reflect the large number of citizens who are committed to START's vision; (3) Building alliances with communities, scientific groups and trade associations throughout the world to help accelerate red tide

research; and (4) Lobby from the State to obtain \$2 Million per year for five years for research that will ensure START's mission.

Ms. Kreger distributed a flyer pertaining to START, including a membership form for START, and a wallet card containing red tide contact information and phone numbers, and advised a DVD has also been developed and is available for purchase, stating a VHS version is also available.

Dr. Barb Kirkpatrick, representing MOTE Marine Laboratory, made a PowerPoint presentation of an overview of the laboratory work being done in studying the causes and treatment of red tide, stating there are a number of partners involved in this process, including the Center for Disease Control, various universities and several grass routes citizen organizations, i.e., START. She explained the particular variety of red tide that afflicts the Gulf area is *Krenia brevis* (K brevis), which is a microscopic plant life organism, which produces the chemical called toxins, which kills fish and seabirds. She explained that the aspects of the work/issues involved pertain to early detection, mitigation and control, public health, education and information. Dr. Kirkpatrick stated the equipment or red tide detector currently being used to locate and monitor red tide resembles a torpedo, which tests the water and reports back the test results. She stated the detectors are untethered, free swimming robots, which can be in the water for up to 30 days at a time and every couple of hours they come to the surface and by satellite phone send data to MOTE. She stated satellite images are also utilized to monitor red tide. A question and answer period followed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

8A. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Senator Dennis L. Jones.

Senator Jones advised committee meetings started last month, stating there will probably be a special session held in December 2005. While in Tallahassee, the State received the waiver from the Federal Government on Medicaid, which means that during the last Legislative Session, a request was made to permit the State Legislature to conduct some pilot programs, because Medicaid is growing so fast and this is the first time in history the Medicaid Budget is larger than the Education Budget. He stated if changes are not made within the next few years, Medicaid can consume 50% of the entire State Budget. He stated Pinellas County is not going to be a part of the pilot program, which will be a two year study done in Broward, Duval, Clay and Nassau counties. He stated this is an extremely controversial issue when limiting doctors, hospitals and what medications individuals can and cannot have in balancing the need with the cost.

Senator Jones stated a Constitutional Amendment was adopted by the electors on the slot machine issue, stating Broward County approved the issue, and the Amendment read that the Legislature shall adopt operator rules and regulations by July 2005, stating the Legislature did not do that. He stated the Court System has ruled that they can self-implement and now the issue is under appeal. He stated if the Legislature does not act, then the Court will most likely give them the go ahead and that will be without any rules and regulations and State control, and the dollars can basically flow anywhere. He stated the State Legislature needs to take some positive action on this issue to ensure there is not a lot of chaos.

Senator Jones stated there is a military base in Duval County and the possibility exists that the State may take the base over and increase its military presence in the State, stating there are currently 22 different locations that will help with employment and stability for the State's residents.

8B. Beach update by Nicole Elko, Pinellas County Coastal Coordinator.

Nicole Elko, Pinellas County Coastal Coordinator, stated the beaches are fine since Hurricane Wilma, although the beaches that were already hot spots are now a little worse. She stated a lot of rocks have

been uncovered and will be removed prior to the nourishment project beginning. She stated the dredging operation has been put on hold for a few days, with the pipe being laid in a couple of days and pumping to begin within a week. She stated Upham Beach in St. Pete Beach, is about where it was about two months ago, and it is hoped that project will be completed by the end of the year. She noted that the completion of the entire renourishment project is expected to be July 2006.

8C. Establishment of a Safety Committee - Mayor Bob Fontaine, Town of Redington Beach.

Mayor Fontaine stated he was approached by a Pinellas Planning Council Board Member to form a Gulf Boulevard Safety Committee, separate from the Gulf Boulevard Task Force, which would focus strictly on safety. He stated elected officials from each community are needed to participate on that Committee with the intent to not necessarily have a uniform approach, but one voice. He stated correspondence will be sent to each municipality asking for a representative.

8D. Update on Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Process - Linda Fisher, Pinellas Planning Council.

Linda Fisher, Pinellas Planning Council (PPC), reminded everyone that PPC is in the process of holding a series of workshops on the EAR Process, and distributed a schedule of the workshops being held.

8E. Update on positive impact of beach nourishment - Nick Fritsch, Sand Key Civic Association.

Nick Fritsch, representing the Sand Key Civic Association, distributed a newspaper article that appeared in the St. Petersburg Times and an article that appeared in Tampa Bay Newspapers, pertaining to the positive impact of beach nourishment on the economy.

8F. Beach Task Force for the Gulf Boulevard Project - Mayor Don Taber.

Mayor Taber stated he is still waiting on submittal of names from some communities, stating the Task Force needs to meet soon, preferably before the first of the year, stating he will notify Pinellas County of the members of the Task Force.

Mayor Taber stated Rand Baldwin, Southwest Florida Water Management District, is trying to setup a reservoir tour in Hillsborough County on November 10, 2005, and anyone interested in taking the tour should contact Mr. Baldwin.

8C. Consideration of next scheduled BIG-C Meeting

Mayor Taber advised the next meeting would be held on November 30, 2005, in Indian Shores.

Consensus to cancel the December 2005 Meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Don Taber, Mayor

Town of Indian Shores

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